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FRETILIN

Statement Before 24 Decolonization Committee
August 1991.

MR. CHAIRMAN
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

On behalf of FRETILIN, I express my gratitude for giving me this opportunity to make a statement on East Timor question.
FRETILIN and UDT recently comemmorate the fith anniversary of the National Convergence-a political agreament between two major Political Parties of East Timor. Representing large majority of East Timorese People.
As matter of record, these two political parties won 100% of seats during the first free elections organised by Portuguese Administration some months before the Indonesian Invasion.

Since last August meeting of this Committee many important events took place.
On the Timor Gap Treaty, I would like to congratulate the Admenistering power, Portugal for the appeal they did to the International Tribunal, aggainst the the Timor Gap Treaty between Indonesia and Australia.
I would like to reiterate our condemnation to this ilegal treaty and its more like a day light robery.
And we all know that Australia and Indonesia violated internatio nal law, the United Nation Charter.
Specific resolutions on East Timor question aproved by Security Council Resolutions as well as relevant General Assembly resolut ions.
made it clear for the States to respect the territorial integrity of East Timor as well as the inalianable right of its People to self determination in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514(XV), as it can be read in paragrahp 1 of Security Council resolution 384 unanimousily adopted.

It is therefore regreatable that a Democratic Country like Australia, well knowm for its human Rigths criticism on the other questions, just ignored the United Nations Resolutions and International law, in exchange for what the former Minister for Foreing Affairs Senator said a zillion dolar agreement.

The Australian position is in our point of view a promotion of the law of jungle. Its position created a intolarable precedent in a region where there are many small Pacificic state Islands.
As a small Nation we think that the best way to defend ourselves is to promote and defend International Law.
The action taken by Portugal aggainst Australia is in accordance with the interests of East Timor People and in according to the relevant duties as Admenistering power, recognised by United Nations.

Another major event that took place recently was the agreement between Portugal and Indonesia on the Portuguese Parliament mission to East Timor.
We wish a successfull visit and we would like congratulate the Secretary General and under Secretary General good offices .
We hope that the visit could lead to a more speedy process of decolonization of East Timor.

Another important event was the meeting between Secretary Genera of UN and the Parliamentarians for East Timor, a Multinational political association of members of Parliaments.

Reading the report we have noticed importants remarks by Mr. Perez de Cuellar clarifying some doubts coming from certain quarters about the validity of UN relotutions on East Timor by saying that East Timor is no different than the struggle of those People of Western Sahara or of Namibia or of other places around the world where similar disputes were occurring.

That declaration was not welcomed by Indonesia s Foreing Minister Ali Alatas,in a AFP report from Jakarta said that Indonesia intervened in East Timor in response to a request from the majority of the popularion there wanting an end to the civil war that erupted after Portugal s hasty withdrawal.

Its is amazing how some Indonesia officials try so hardly to re rewrite past events according to their whishes.

In fact who has boycoted the process of decolonization in East Timor was Indonesia Generals.

On the civil war qustion I would like to draw your attention to the United Nation Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization, nunber 7 published in August 1976.
On page 26 in the English edition, TThe UN publication, I qoute: Outside observers, who visited the territory agree that by mid Setember the civil wart had ended.

As far as the dead tool the same publication refers on page 19 I qoute: According to an assescement made by a team of the Australian Council for Overseas Aid which visited East Timor in Octocber 1975, between 2ooo and 3000 people lost their lifes in the civil war.

On the current situation inside the occupied areas we have seen new developments
Young Gerneration educated by Indonesia are turned aggainst them.
The first question a Young Timorese would ask to any Indonewsian they met is:
Kapang Pulang.Which means in English:When are you going back home.
This simple two words was the reason for a imprisioment of a 13 years old boy
Jose Ly.
He was arrested for 4 days and was only released when their Parents paid a
2o.ooo rupees.
The discontenment ios very high among the Timorese. As an example, recently 4
soccer players defected in Darwin and asked political asylum to Portuguese
State and Australia.

On the military situation I would like to quote the last year interview of Xanana Gusmao to Australian Journalist Mr. Rtobert Domm.

On the war

Following Indonesia's announcement to 'open up' East Timor, has the resistance movement made changes in its strategy? Have ABRI (the Indonesian armed forces) changed their strategy and tactics?

Any initiatives taken by the occupier invariably have a boomerang effect. None of their threats or manoeuvres ever scare us because our principle has always been, never to be defeated by anything forced upon us by the enemy but to explore all possibilities. This means that every advantage we reap is the result of a methodical assessment of the situation thrust upon us. Because we are always in a position of subordination to the enemy's strategy, we have never been driven by a desire to engage in frontal combat, trying to create obstacles that would prevent the enemy from achieving their aims. Our way of thinking is: **To resist is to win.** The nature and dynamism of this principle stems from the attention we devote to consolidating and continuing the resistance; this is what has given us the serenity we need to cope with the difficulties we have had to face.

Some people think we are incapable of thwarting the enemy's plans and see this as evidence of our inadequacy. We do not think it necessary to obstruct something simply for the sake of being obstructive. We believe there is a much greater necessity – to prevent the enemy from benefiting in any way from their plans. Hence we can say that we exist in the shadow of the enemy's plans. As everyone knows, "the day belongs to the Javanese, the night belongs to the guerrillas".

Whenever the enemy devises a strategy in any field of activity, it goes without saying that they will greatly underestimate the possibility for us to take our share of the benefits they intended for themselves. To this day, the enemy persists in wrongly assessing the Maubere attitude; they fail to realise that the war which has been forced on us for the last 15 years has unified and consolidated the people. Moreover, there is no way out for them. They cannot escape the inevitable: any attempt on their part to create a situation favourable to them, creates another situation that is unfavourable. The very nature of the supremacy they impose on us means that they can only correct one mistake by committing others.

It is a vicious circle; something that initially looks like a stroke of genius will lose its shine in the end because of the numerous small failures at the heart of their strategy, many of which they are not even aware of. Things then move in the opposite direction to what they had intended, forcing them to devise new methods so as to improve their conduct of the war.

Refering to the dificulties they are facing Xanana Gusmao said:

clandestine organisations have been able to warn us in advance. We must be the only guerrilla army in the world with so many difficulties in all aspects – our own subsistence, in health, in our own capacity to maintain adequate human resources.

But we must stress, it is our political motivation that sustains us in this war, it is too great for us to lose, our morale is unshakeable. It is this morale that allows us to overcome all these difficulties. In such a small territory hardly visible on the map, with a tiny air space and sea surrounding us on all sides and a naval blockade imposed by the enemy, everyone can understand the difficulties faced by Falintil. The fact that we have resisted for 15 years now and we are still able to cry out that we are determined to win is because our people demand this, our homeland demands this of us. People should understand that for us the enormous difficulties are not really felt, they only strengthen our unity, our determination to search for new methods to face up to these difficulties.

Without sanctuaries, our guerrillas are very mobile in the full sense of that word. Without even the minimum capacity